

May 18, 1961

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Honorable Joseph Campbell
Comptroller General of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

This is with reference to your letter of May 16 to Honorable Paul J. Kilday, Chairman, Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency, Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. Kilday and I have discussed the contents of your letter at some length and in view of the course of action which you contemplate, I feel it incumbent upon me to promptly express my judgment on this matter.

As you know, Mr. Kilday's Subcommittee gave considerable attention to the audit conducted by the General Accounting Office of the Central Intelligence Agency. It was fully recognized that there were certain restrictions on the scope of the audit by the General Accounting Office, which restrictions were inherent in a relationship of this nature. However, the Subcommittee was of the firm opinion that even a limited audit of overt accounting actions would serve a worthwhile purpose. In furtherance of that judgment, the Subcommittee concluded that the limitations which were inherent required more experienced representatives of your office than had been assigned to this function. The Committee was gratified that you concurred in that judgment and improved the quality of the representatives so assigned.

I am of the firm opinion that the points which you raise in your letter to Mr. Kilday should be the subject of further discussions between the Committee, the General Accounting Office, and the Central

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Intelligence Agency. Pending the completion of these discussions, I am not recommending too strongly against the course of action which you propose in the final paragraph on page two of your letter. I know you must fully appreciate that there are other overriding considerations which can not be divorced, under prevailing circumstances, from any change in the existing relationship between your office and the Central Intelligence Agency.

I trust you will agree with my firm belief that there is nothing in this situation which requires precipitous action. On the other hand, I want to assure you that the matters set forth in your letter will be the subject of further consideration by Mr. Kilday's Subcommittee, in full consultation with your office, at a time which better accommodates the overriding requirements of national interest.

I would appreciate a response to this expression of my views.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Carl Vinson
Chairman